

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6795

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E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: AFSP EGEN

SUBJ: THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL
RESPONSIBILITIES

REF: STATE 50002

1. ALL OF US AT EMBASSY COPENHAGEN FULLY RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO CONTINUE MAXIMUM EFFORT IN PROMOTING US INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND TRADE INTERESTS DESPITE OUR SERIOUSLY LIMITED MANPOWER AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES. THESE RESOURCES ARE, IN FACT, SO LIMITED THAT WE ARE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED OVER THE WIDENING GAP BETWEEN RESPONSIBILITIES CHARGED TO OUR TWO-MAN ECON/ COMSECTION AND THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO HANDLE THEM.

2. WE APPRECIATE BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS AND NEED FOR AUSTERITY. WE HAVE, THOUGH, BEEN PARTICULARLY HARD HIT IN PAST BY SUCCESSIVE BALPA AND OPRED CUTS (FROM 4 OFFICERS TO 2 IN ECON/ COM SECTION), WHICH WERE TOLERABLE SO LONG AS COPENHAGEN REMAINED A RELATIVELY QUIET BACKWATER IN ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES. EVEN WITH THE RECENT INCREASED EMPHASIS ON TRADE PROMOTION, WE FEEL WE COULD HANDLE MOST OF THE PRINCIPAL REQUIREMENTS WITH PRESENT STAFF. HOWEVER, A BASIC CHANGE IN DENMARK'S INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE OCCURRED IN JANUARY 1973 WHEN IT BECAME AN EC MEMBER. ECON/ COM SECTION RESPONSIBILITIES HAVE, AS A RESULT, GREATLY EXPANDED IN LAST FEW MONTHS AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO DO SO.

3. AS MEMBER OF COMMUNITY, DENMARK IS STILL SMALL (BUT WITH
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HIGHEST PER CAPITA INCOME OF THE NINE). NONETHELESS, ETARY PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED BY PAYMENT AGREEMENTS AND BY GRADUAL ENLARGEMENT ZONE OF CONVERTIBILITY; (B) MALI ALSO WANTS TO GAIN FREE AND FULL ACCESS TO COASTAL MARKETS AND TAX- FREE TRANSIT TO AND FROM PORTS ON SAME TERMS AS SENEGALESE AND IVORIAN NATIONALS. IN PART THIS MEANS ABOLITION IVORIAN TAXES ON CATTLE AND PARTICULARLY MEAT, ABOLITION OF UPPER VOLTAN TAX ON TRANSITING MALIAN CATTLE, AND FREE ENTRY INTO HIGHER PRICED COASTAL COUNTRIES FOR CHEAP MALIAN TEXTILES. FOREIGN MINISTER ADMITTED (A) AND (B) MIGHT BE A LOT TO SWALLOW, BUT SAID SENGHOR AND HOUPHOUET SEEMED SO ANXIOUS TO MOVE AHEAD THAT THEY MIGHT AGREE (C) MALI ALSO WANTS CEAO TO HAVE ITS HEADQUARTERS IN BAMAKO.

3. COMMENT: WHETHER MALIANS WILL BE AS HARD- NOSED AS FOREIGN MINISTER SUGGESTED IS QUESTIONABLE. THEY ALSO WANT TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM TOWARDS WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC UNITY AND THEY NOT SURE TO WHAT DEGREE NIGERIA AND OTHER ENGLISH- SPEAKING AFRICANS REALLY INTERESTED IN CEAO. OUR BET WOULD BE THAT THEY MORE READY TO SELL KEY PROPOSALS OF SENGHOR AND HOUPHOUET, ASKING "FOR FURTHER STUDY". MALIAN CHIEF DELEGATE TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING IS THEORETICALLY TRANSPORT MINISTER CAPTAIN KARIM DEMBELE BUT REAL HEAD IS FINANCE MINISTER CAPTAIN BABA DIARRA, WHO IS PRESIDING OFFICE OF MINISTERIAL MEETING. OMBEVI CHIEF KONATE ALSO ON DELEGATION.
BLAKE

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